

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

‘Cuban Five show us how to fight, stand tall, never bow’  
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 16 APRIL 29, 2013

## US gov’t seeks to tighten squeeze on North Korea

BY EMMA JOHNSON

As two-month-long joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises aimed at North Korea enter their final weeks, Washington has sent Secretary of State John Kerry to several countries in Asia, starting with China. But U.S. efforts to bring Beijing on board the

**U.S. TROOPS OUT OF KOREA!  
LIFT THE SANCTIONS!**

—SWP statement, p.4

imperialist campaign to economically squeeze and isolate Pyongyang got no traction, according to press reports.

The U.S. government in recent weeks has also backed off from earlier provocative public statements about the current military maneuvers and, for the first time, publicly outlined its military policy toward North Korea, promulgated as a “counter-provocation” plan built around “proportional” retaliation for any moves

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## Boston bombing offers rulers pretext to keep chipping at rights

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Within hours of the April 15 deadly bomb blast in Boston, it was clear the U.S. rulers would seize the deaths and maimings there as the latest pretext to step up spying and other curbs on the rights of working people.

How much traction this particular

**DEFEND WORKERS RIGHTS!**

—Statement by SWP candidate p.9

incident will provide along these lines remains to be seen.

Three people were killed and at least 176 injured at the Boston Marathon when two homemade bombs exploded near the finish line.

Authorities from Boston to Washington, D.C., have called for stepped-up government use of surveillance cameras, cop informers and provocateurs in working-class areas.

“The FBI is investigating it as an act of terrorism,” President Barack

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## Protests in DC, across US press for immigrant rights

Next actions demanding legalization set for May 1



David Sachs/SEIU

Tens of thousands rally in Washington, D.C., April 10, to press for legalization of undocumented workers in midst of debate in Congress over immigration “reform.” Recent polls indicate growing support for immigrant rights struggle, a key question for unity of working class.

BY GLOVA SCOTT  
AND PAUL PEDERSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Tens of thousands filled the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol here April 10 to demand legalization for some 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S.

The protest, whose central theme was “Now is the Time” for citizenship, took place as Democratic and

Republican senators are preparing to introduce bipartisan immigration “reform” legislation.

A *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll conducted a few days before found that nearly two-thirds of those surveyed say they support giving citizenship to undocumented workers who have a job.

The demonstration here was hosted

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## Miners march, call April 29 protest against Patriot Coal



Militant/David Rosenfeld

ST. LOUIS — One thousand members of the United Mine Workers of America from Illinois to Alabama gathered here April 16 in their continuing battle against Patriot Coal, which is using bankruptcy proceedings to tear up union contracts and gut health care and pensions for retired miners.

Peabody Energy spun off almost all of its union mines to form Patriot Coal in 2007. Patriot then declared bankruptcy in July 2012.

The miners marched through downtown to Memorial Park across the street from Peabody’s headquarters, chanting “U-M-W-A.” There they placed white crosses in the ground. “Six hundred sixty-six of 1,000 crosses represent miners who lost their lives at Patriot, Arch and Peabody mines,” said UMWA International Vice President Steve Earle. “The remaining crosses are for lives of miners that will be lost if Patriot eliminates health care for retirees and safety for active miners.”

The union is organizing buses for a major demonstration April 29, timed with the start of the main bankruptcy hearings here. Dan Kane, UMWA secretary-treasurer, said miners from Australia will come to the rally and “then we are going over there.” Peabody owns 11 mines in Australia.

At the rally were delegations from unions in St. Louis, including UNITE HERE, United Steelworkers and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

—ALYSON KENNEDY

## Workers’ jobs, wages, pensions are target as crisis deepens in Cyprus

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The capitalist rulers’ response to the banking crisis in Cyprus is having a big impact on the living standards of working people and has begun to shake common assumptions about capitalism.

Jobs, wages and pensions are on the chopping block. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the government also plans to make it easier for banks to seize a person’s home, raise retire-

ment ages and cut health care.

The closure of banks for two weeks in March, capital controls limiting access to deposits, discussions about confiscating a portion of all deposits and the eventual “restructuring” of Cyprus’ two largest banks through confiscating large parts of uninsured deposits over \$130,000 have been a learning experience for workers and others.

Today it is easier for millions to see that what is commonly viewed as deposits that “belong” to the depositor

Continued on page 9

## Guantánamo hunger strike protests indefinite detentions

BY JOHN STUDER

As a hunger strike by inmates at the U.S. prison camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, garners international attention, U.S. military personnel there have sought to isolate prisoners and minimize coverage of their plight.

Some 130 of the 166 detainees imprisoned indefinitely on the U.S. Navy

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NY school bus workers show opposition to wage cuts 5



# Protests, videotape of brutality win firing of 4 cops in Omaha

BY LAURA GARZA

OMAHA, Neb. — “I’ve witnessed police brutality before, been harassed before, this was severe,” Brendan Johnson, 21, told the *Militant* at an April 1 midday protest downtown here against recent cop beatings of members of the Johnson family (no relation). The protesters marched from police headquarters to City Hall. Some 120 took part in a speakout in north Omaha later that evening.

A video that captured the incident March 21 shows officer Bradley Canterbury throwing Octavious Johnson, 28, to the ground in front of his north Omaha home, then beating him while handcuffed.

Sharee Johnson, Octavious’ mother, said at the speakout that on the night of March 21 cops beat her son after he protested their towing of cars outside the Johnson home. Juaquez Johnson, 23, videotaped his brother’s beating with his cellphone from across the street, yelling, “This is abuse.”

After more cops arrived on the scene, totaling 23 altogether, they chased Juaquez Johnson into the family’s home. The brothers’ aunt, Sharon Johnson, was knocked over in her wheelchair as officers pounced on Juaquez and his brother Demetrius, 22, who tried to tape the events inside the house. Sharon Johnson told the *Omaha World-Herald* that cops beat both brothers, while officers searched the house. When police left, arresting all three brothers, the two cellphones were gone.

But a video of the whole incident taken by a neighbor was featured on local news and widely viewed on the Internet.

A couple days after the assaults, Sharee Johnson, accompanied by several dozen protesters, filed a complaint with the Omaha Police Department against the cops involved.

In response to widespread condemnation, Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said April 5 that he had fired four officers, including Canterbury, and a sergeant who was in charge on the scene. The *World-Herald* reported that among those fired were officers suspected of trying to destroy evidence. Three others were placed on administrative leave and another reassigned.

Sharee Johnson told the *Militant* she had to spend \$6,000 to bail out her three sons, who were framed up on charges that included disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Sharon Johnson had to go to the hospital for injuries suffered during the incident. Sharee said the cops also seized her dogs and she had to pay to get them out of the pound.

Robert Wagner, another victim of po-



Militant/Jacob Perasso

**Some 120 people attend community speakout in north Omaha, Neb., April 1 against cop brutality. At left is Sharee Johnson, whose three sons were arrested and beaten by cops March 21.**

lice brutality here, accompanied Sharee Johnson to file her complaint.

At the April 1 speakout Wagner explained how he was beaten and shocked with a stun gun by police in front of a hospital in May 2011, after visiting a cousin who was dying.

After Wagner publicized a video of his beating, two cops were fired, but then reinstated upon review under non-

public police department procedures.

“They lied, they tried to spin the video saying it just showed kicks to my legs, but no, they were kicks to my head,” Wagner told the meeting.

Both Wagner and Sharee Johnson say they’ve been targets of cop harassment. “They have parked in front of my house, and they won’t give me a reason,” said Johnson.

## Omaha: Socialist candidate joins fight to charge cops with beating

BY LAURA GARZA

OMAHA, Neb. — “The Socialist Workers Party Campaign of Maura DeLuca for Mayor and Jacob Perasso for City Council District 4 calls on the city of Omaha to press charges against the officers involved in beating and assaulting members of the Johnson family on March 21,” said a statement released by the campaign and distributed among working people here.

“All charges against the Johnson brothers should be immediately dis-

missed,” the statement says. “We salute those like Robert Wagner and the Johnson family who have stood up and decided to fight, and we encourage all working people to join in this fight and deal a blow to the idea the cops have immunity to mete out abusive treatment.”

Perasso spoke from the floor at an April 1 public meeting to support the Johnsons: “We have to keep the pressure on the city officials to act by continuing to mobilize in public protests and meetings, that is what experience has shown will get some action.”

Perasso campaigned door to door in the predominantly African-American area of northeast Omaha April 6.

“It looked to me like the police wouldn’t be charged. I’m glad you are taking a stand,” Alice Gribbs told Perasso when he knocked on her door. Gribbs signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper.

“I back you 100 percent in your demand that the police be charged,” said Joe Cheney, 56, a butcher who is

Caucasian. “The police have a different policy in this part of town.”

Perasso was interviewed April 2 on “Real Talk Radio with Willie Hamilton” on AM 1690. Hamilton, president of Black Men United, was a central organizer of the April 1 community meeting.

In addition to talking about the fight against police brutality, Perasso spoke about a number of other struggles that are key to strengthening the unity and fighting capacity of the working class, including the fights for women’s right to abortion and for legalization of undocumented immigrants.

“I applaud you because a lot of the things that you stand for are the same things that fuel me and keep me going,” Hamilton told Perasso at the end of the one-hour interview.

The campaign has been covered by KMTV Action 3 News, the daily *Omaha World-Herald*, *Mundo Latino*, a Spanish-language paper, and *El Perico*, a bilingual weekly publication.

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Dockworkers on strike in Hong Kong over pay and conditions march April 1.

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# Guantánamo hunger strike

Continued from front page

base have declared they're taking part in a hunger strike to protest prison conditions and press for their release.

At first prison officials denied the existence of the strike, which reportedly began Feb. 6. Now the U.S. government admits 43 are striking, 11 of whom are being force-fed through their nose. On April 13 guards used rubber bullets to subdue inmates as they moved dozens of hunger strikers into solitary confinement.

As the strike has gained publicity, protests against conditions in Guantánamo have grown, along with calls to shut the prison down, including from Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the *New York Times* editorial board.

While the strike began as a protest over guards' provocative desecration of prisoners' Korans, it has been transformed into a challenge of the prison itself.

A vast majority of the 166 prisoners at Guantánamo have been held for 11 years without any charges, seized under the rubric of the "war on terror," launched by President George W. Bush. Some 86 have been cleared by the government for transfer or release, but continue to be held with no prospect of release.

On the second day after his inauguration in 2009, President Barack Obama signed an executive order pledging to close the Guantánamo prison within a year and suspending use of military tribunals. In March 2011 he signed a new executive order keeping Guantánamo open, allowing prisoners to be held indefinitely, and restarting the tribunals conducted by a commission of Pentagon-appointed officers.

The six inmates who face charges are being tried by a military commis-

sion. Five are accused of involvement in organizing the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The sixth, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, is accused of organizing the attack on the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen, in 2000.

New rules for the tribunals Obama instituted blocked the prosecution from introducing evidence obtained from a defendant's "confession" under torture. But statements of others who were tortured can be used, allowing the government to torture defendants into implicating others. Hearsay not permissible in military courts-martial is allowed and prosecutorial evidence can be kept from the defense.

The rules also bar defendants from discussing in court their treatment—including waterboarding and other forms of torture.

Al-Nashiri was previously held in a secret CIA prison, where he was interrogated under torture that included waterboarding and threats of execution.

The CIA has admitted that Mohammed was waterboarded at least 183 times.

U.S. Army Col. James Pohl, presiding over the tribunal of Mohammed and his co-defendants, issued a classified ruling Jan. 15 that there will be no presumption they are covered by the legal protections of the U.S. Constitution.

"At the beginning of this year ... conditions at the Guantánamo Bay prison became much worse than they had been for years," said Musa'ab al-Madhwani, a prisoner from Yemen, in a statement to his attorney March 28.

"The only means we have to express the utter hopelessness of our situation is by participating in a hunger strike," he said.

## SWP NY mayor candidate kicks off campaign door to door



Militant/Paul Mailhot

NEW YORK — While campaigning door to door April 14 in Harlem, Dan Fein (left), Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor here, speaks with Stefano Da Fre, an actor from Quebec who recently renewed his subscription.

Many other prisoners have gotten similar statements out to their attorneys. Meanwhile, the press has been denied entry to the complex.

Prisoners report that the prison has turned the air conditioning up to frigid temperatures and is denying them clean drinking water.

Dozens of family members of prisoners originally from Yemen organized a protest outside the U.S. Embassy in the capital Sanaa April 1, holding pictures of their incarcerated relatives.

The prisoners appear determined to continue their fight. "He is by no means a broken man," Ramzi Kassem, attorney for Shaker Aamer, a legal resident of England whose government has requested his return, told CBS News. "He continues to struggle and hope and live."

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own.** Speakers: Ellie García, Socialist Workers Party, attended Havana International Book Fair; Juan Torres. Sat., April 27. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**All Out for May Day!** Speaker: Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 26, 7:30 p.m. 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

### MINNESOTA

#### Minneapolis

**Why Are the U.S. Rulers Assaulting Women's Right to Choose Abortion and Giving Ground to Gay Marriage?** Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 416 E Hennepin Ave. NE, 2nd floor. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

### CANADA

#### Montreal

**Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Tunisia ... Arab Spring Creates Openings to Build Working-Class Unity.** Speaker: Katy LeRougetel, Communist League. Fri., April 26, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own.** Speaker: Joanne Kuniansky, Communist League in Australia, volunteer at Pathfinder stall at Havana International Book Fair. Sat., April 27, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 4/125 Grafton Rd. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Manchester

**Cyprus Crisis: Working People Across Europe Face Growing Assaults.** Speaker: Dag Tirsén, Communist League. Sat., April 20, 4 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

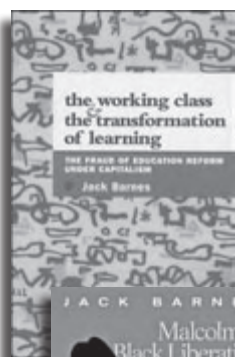
## —CALENDAR—

### CANADA

#### Montreal

**Demonstrate Against the Pillaging of Employment Insurance.** Sat., April 27. Assemble at noon. March begins 1:15 p.m. Place du Canada (Intersection of Peel and René-Lévesque). [www.nonausaccage.com](http://www.nonausaccage.com)

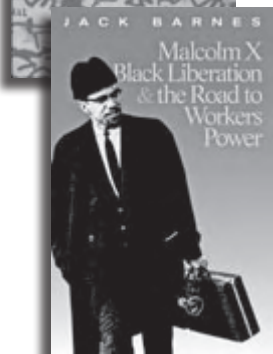
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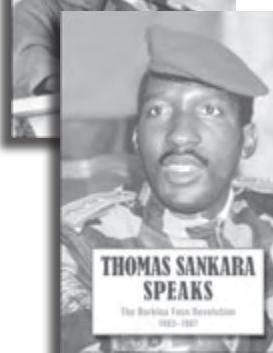


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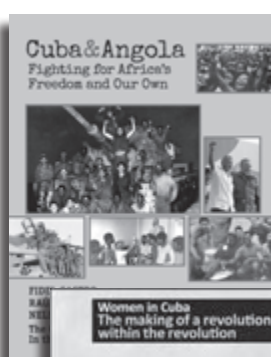


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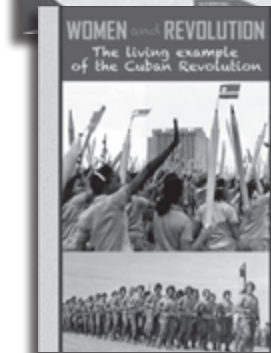


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See distributors  
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# ‘US troops out! Lift the sanctions! Korea is one’

*The following is a message to Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea, from Steve Clark on behalf of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party on the occasion of the April 15 national holiday in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.*

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send internationalist greetings on the occasion of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s April 15 national holiday. We also join this year in celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the historic resistance

## SWP STATEMENT

against the 1950-53 US-imperialist-organized war against the Korean people. We pledge our unconditional solidarity with the struggle to reunify Korea, which was partitioned in 1945 through a divide-the-spoils deal between Washington, London, and Moscow.

Today Washington deploys more than 28,000 US troops on Korean soil. It maintains missiles, planes, and warships in Korean airspace and waters and carries out provocative joint military exercises and war games with the capitalist regime in Seoul. The imperialist government that this year alone has led the charge in imposing two new rounds of global banking and other sanctions against the DPRK has more than a hundred of its own military satellites in orbit and patrols the Pacific — which it treats as an American sea — with nine Trident submarines carrying some 1,000 nuclear warheads.

The US rulers, who have refused for sixty years to sign a peace treaty with the DPRK, leveled cities, towns, and villages across Korea during the 1950-53 war. In addition, during the second interimperialist slaughter, Washington — along with its enemies in Berlin and its allies in London — initiated for the

first time in warfare the unconscionable firebombing of civilian populations across Europe. To the horror of class-conscious working people the world over, the propertied US ruling families incinerated cities across Japan with conventional and nuclear bombardment, slaughtering both Japanese civilians and Korean workers brought there against their will during Tokyo’s brutal and degrading colonial occupation of your country.

In face of today’s global capitalist crisis, workers and farmers — from North America and Europe, to the Pacific, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean — are resisting assaults by the earth’s rival exploiting classes on our living and job conditions, our political rights, and on our very dignity as human beings. These fighting toilers and those who support their battles can be won in growing numbers to champion the Korean people’s insistence on your right to national unity.

On this national holiday, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists join with you and others the world over in demanding:

US troops out of Korea and the Pacific! Lift the sanctions!

Rid Korea’s soil, its airspace, and the Pacific seas surrounding it of nuclear weapons!

Korea is one!

Comradely,

Steve Clark  
for the National Committee  
Socialist Workers Party

## Illinois march protests immigration jail, builds May 1 action



Militant/Betsy Farley

JOLIET, Ill. — More than 1,000 people marched to the Will County Clerk’s office here April 6 to protest plans to build an immigrant detention center in Joliet. The action was one of many leading up to the May 1 mobilization in Chicago for legalization of immigrants.

The proposed facility would be run privately and house as many as 700 people awaiting deportation. The jail first had been planned for Crete, but residents fought and blocked its construction there.

Some participants marched with union signs and banners, including from Workers United, the Service Employees International Union and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. Many carried signs that read, “No Immigrant Prison in Joliet!” Similar signs can be seen in many yards and in windows of small businesses across the city.

“We have to begin to support each other,” said Burneva McCullum, who is African-American. McCullum explained that three weeks ago she helped found a new organization, the African-American and Hispanic Coalition. “Blacks and Latinos in Joliet have the same problems. We need jobs, not another prison. Too many of us are below the poverty line,” she said.

March organizers in Chicago are planning for a large turnout on May 1. “On May Day 2013 no international worker goes to work. We will march to stop deportations, for legalization for all, to keep families together and for immigration reform now!” Artemio Arreola, political director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, told the *Militant*.

—BETSY FARLEY

## US gov’t seeks to tighten squeeze on North Korea

Continued from front page

by Pyongyang.

The increased tensions between the U.S. and North Korean governments began earlier this year with one, then another round of economic sanctions by the U.N. Security Council, under prodding from Washington.

The first round of sanctions targeting North Korean financial institutions and other entities was imposed Jan. 22, following North Korea’s successful launching of a satellite into orbit. The operation, which Pyongyang said was for peaceful purposes, was done with a long-range ballistic missile — a technology Washington and its allies want to prevent North Korea from developing.

The second round of sanctions, co-authored by Beijing and adopted March 7, was imposed in response to Pyongyang’s third nuclear weapons test, conducted Feb. 12.

The government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea says it will continue to develop nuclear weapons in face of decades of unremitting aggression and threats — including nuclear threats — from Washington. In response to this year’s military maneuvers, Pyongyang issued statements saying it would respond to armed action from Washington or Seoul by launching a nuclear strike on populations in South Korean or U.S. territory.

The U.S. government is divided over aspects of its policy against the North Korean government and how to assess the DPRK’s nuclear weapons capabili-

ties — or at least what to say about it publicly. A debate broke out after U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn read a statement during a congressional hearing April 11 from a Defense Intelligence Agency report putting forward the DIA’s “moderate confidence” assessment that “the North currently has nuclear weapons capable of delivery by ballistic missiles,” albeit with low reliability.

The statement clashed with more skeptical views about the DPRK’s nuclear capacities publicly put forward by the Barack Obama administration’s State Department. The same day, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper issued a statement that the DIA’s view didn’t reflect the “consensus” of Washington’s intelligence agencies. The *Wall Street Journal* and *Investor’s Business Daily* responded by calling for a more aggressive U.S. policy aimed at overthrowing the DPRK.

Meanwhile, John Kerry in Tokyo said Washington would enter into talks with the DPRK if Pyongyang began dismantling its nuclear weapons program.

“The DPRK is not opposed to dialogue,” said a April 16 North Korean statement in response. But it “should be based on the principle of respecting sovereignty and equality — this is the DPRK’s consistent stand.”

Pyongyang has responded to the most recent round of provocations from Washington by declaring the 1953 cease-fire void, cutting off all military hot lines with South Korea

and closing the only joint business venture between the two countries, the Kaesong industrial park.

In its April 16 statement, the DPRK government reiterated its intention to “bolster its nuclear deterrence both in quality and quantity” in face of military threats from Washington, which it pointed out include U.S. nuclear submarines, intercontinental ballistic nuclear missiles, strategic bombers and nuclear-powered carrier strike groups.

After a visit to China April 13, Kerry traveled to South Korea and Japan. His attempts to convince Beijing to mount greater pressure on North Korea appear to have gone nowhere for now. The Chinese rulers are steadfastly opposed to Washington’s military buildup in the Pacific and have no interest in anything that could lead to U.S. troops on its border or the replacement of the government of the DPRK with one subservient to Washington.

China’s state-run news agency Xinhua said April 13 that the U.S. “keeps sending more fighter bombers and missile defense ships to the waters of East Asia and carrying out massive military drills with Asian allies in a dramatic display of pre-emptive power.”

## —MAY DAY ACTIONS—

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**Legalization for All! Stop Deportations!** Assemble at Union Park, Ashland and Lake, 2 p.m.; march, 3 p.m.; rally at Federal Plaza, 4:30 p.m. *Sponsor: Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Tel.: (312) 332-7360 ext. 224.*

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**May Day March and Rally.** Assemble at Union Square 12 noon. *Sponsored by May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights. Tel: (212) 633-6646.*

**Labor Rights, Immigrant Rights, Jobs for All!** Assemble at Union Square, 4 p.m.; march, 5:30 p.m.; rally at City Hall, 6 p.m. *Sponsored by Labor Rights, Immigrant Rights, Jobs for All Coalition. Tel.: (212) 239-7323, (917) 488-2515.*

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

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## ON THE PICKET LINE

### NY school bus workers show opposition to wage, benefit cuts

NEW YORK — More than 1,500 school bus workers packed Christ the King High School auditorium here in Middle Village, Queens, April 4, for their first union meeting since officials of Amalgamated Transport Union Local 1181 ended a monthlong strike Feb. 15. The meeting was a show of opposition to wage and benefit cuts announced by 60 bus companies March 22.

Dozens of union members were turned away by fire marshals, who said the room was filled past capacity.

Some 8,800 school bus drivers, matrons and mechanics went on strike Jan. 16 after union contracts expired and city officials declared Employee Protection Provisions in place for more than 34 years “illegal” and said they would be void for 1,100 bus routes up for bid by private companies. The provisions ensure that laid-off workers are hired according to seniority and at their previous wage no matter which companies win periodic bidding for bus routes.

Ending the strike without a contract gave the companies a green light to implement their final offer, which included a 7.5 percent wage cut for drivers, the elimination of two weeks’ paid vacation and higher health insurance costs.

“The imposed contract also has new matrons starting at \$10.50 per hour and limits them to five hours per day,” bus driver Gloria Flaherty said outside the auditorium. Before the strike, matrons started at \$11 an hour, topped out at \$15.31 and were paid for an eight-hour day.

“This is a \$90-a-week cut in pay,” said Vadely Constant, a driver for Atlantic Express.

Constant and a handful of other workers said another strike is needed, but most at the meeting did not see how that was possible right now.

The *New York Daily News* reported April 11 that city officials are now saying that the protection provisions were only illegal for the new bids but still apply to unexpired contracts for 6,600 existing bus routes.

—Dan Fein

### Quebec hotel striker: ‘We’ll stand one minute longer than bosses’

SAINT-HYACINTHE, Quebec — The strike by 180 workers at Hôtel des Seigneurs here has entered its fifth month. The workers, members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions, voted 85 percent to go on strike Oct. 28 for higher wages and more hiring to cut down on forced overtime.

“We hold very lively picket lines and held a carnival,” Adrienne Dubé said on the picket line March 27. “We often receive solidarity from other workers. This is very encouraging.”

“As long as we stand one more minute than the bosses, we are the winners,” said Dubé.

Last fall union workers at 20 hotels across the province signed four-year contracts that include 3 percent annual wage increases, 2 percent increases in employer pension funds, and some protection from job cuts. Workers at 15 other hotels are still without new contracts.

Hôtel des Seigneurs workers are demanding an additional hourly increase of 60 cents. Chambermaids make \$14.09 an hour compared to \$19.62 at the Montreal Hyatt Regency.

—Félix Vincent Ardea  
and Annette Kouri

### NY meat department workers fight lockout, wage cuts

NEW YORK — Nearly 100 butchers and wrappers have been picketing at nine Trade Fair supermarkets in the borough of Queens here since the company locked them out following a three-hour “unfair labor practice” strike March 13.

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 342’s contract with Trade Fair expired in November. According to a union leaflet the company is proposing “no wage increases, extensive changes to our health care coverage, eliminating job classifications, eliminating guaranteed hours” and eliminating time and half for Sunday work.

“We will continue to explore every legal venue to ensure that these members are returned to work, and treated fairly under the law,” Local 342 Deputy Communications Director Kate Meckler said in an email.



Daniel Cruz

Picket line of meat department workers locked out by Trade Fair grocery in New York, April 6.

“We are in negotiations. The lockout is on the union’s terms,” Trade Fair spokesman Martin Jacobson told the *Militant*. “The workers walked off the job.”

The locked-out workers have been getting support from workers at other Trade Fair departments who belong to UFCW Local 338 as well as from other

area unions. Three workers from Fresh Direct, a grocery that takes orders online, joined the picket line April 6. Picket lines are up from 7 a.m. to midnight.

Nine New York City Council members from Queens signed a letter asking Trade Fair to end the lockout.

—Rebecca Williamson,  
worker at Fresh Direct

## Quebec rallies build April 27 protest against cuts in jobless pay

BY JOHN STEELE

BOUCHERVILLE, Quebec — Momentum is building towards a large Quebec-wide demonstration in Montreal April 27 to demand suspension of legislation that guts federal employment insurance, a move having a devastating impact on the lives of tens of thousands of unemployed and seasonal workers across the country.

The action is being built by the Quebec Coalition Against Employment Insurance Reform, made up of Quebec’s three main union federations, the provincial farmers’ union, community groups, organizations of the unemployed and student unions.

“We, like others, are seasonal workers and we use employment insurance especially in the summer when the

hotel gets fewer contracts,” Suzanne Hamel, a banquet worker on strike against the Hôtel des Seigneurs in Saint-Hyacinthe, told the *Militant* at an April 11 demonstration here. The action of some 200 is one among a number of rallies taking place across the province to build the April 27 demonstration. “We need it to supplement the hours we don’t get at work,” Hamel said, who came to the action on a bus with 60 striking coworkers.

Under the new law, which went into effect in January, unemployed workers are divided into three categories based on how often they have received jobless insurance over a five-year period — hitting seasonal workers particularly hard. Some would be required to immediately accept jobs at 80 percent of their previous wages and at 70 percent after seven weeks. Workers would also be required to look for work within a radius of 100 kilometers (62 miles).

For information on how to participate in the action, visit: [www.non-ausaccage.org](http://www.non-ausaccage.org).

Annette Kouri contributed to this article.



Militant/John Steele

April 11 protest at Boucherville, Quebec, against cuts in federal unemployment insurance.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 29, 1988

JAY, Maine — In addition to hearing reports on the upcoming April 30 labor solidarity rally and news of the negotiations with International Paper Co., the union/family meeting of striking paperworkers here heard a plea for support for five victimized Kentucky coal miners.

The miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, have been framed up on charges stemming from the 1984-85 A.T. Massey Coal Co. strike. Four have been given long prison sentences. The fifth faces a second trial.

Appeals for support were read by Felix Jacques, executive vice president of United Paperworkers Local 14.

“When the company is losing, it encourages other people to do violence and blames the union,” Jacques said, referring to the frame-up charges stemming from the death of a scab coal hauler.



April 29, 1963

APRIL 24 — The Kennedy administration is persisting in its strategy of trying to destroy the Cuban Revolution but it is moving more cautiously than before and has apparently ruled out the idea of another invasion in the near future. This change in policy was analyzed by Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro in a speech delivered on the second anniversary of the victory over the Kennedy-organized invasion at Playa Giron.

Castro’s April 20 speech was a devastating critique of the entire Kennedy record on Cuba. He analyzed the Bay of Pigs invasion, declaring that it had not failed because of poor military planning or the alleged lack of air cover. The essential reason for its failure, said Castro, was the superiority of revolutionary morale to that of the mercenaries.



April 30, 1938

International May Day is the day when the working class mobilizes its ranks in demonstration and review, and outlines its course of action for the period ahead.

The ruling class throughout the world is on the offensive.

The standard of living of the workers, never very high, is being cut to the bone in one country after another. Capitalism in every country is in the death-grip of a crisis. The ruling class knows no way out of it, except to reduce the masses to an even lower level of existence.

May Day must be a reminder to the workers that they can solve their own problems, can smash the capitalist offensive and the reaction, can inaugurate a better life in a new society. They can rely only on their own strength, their own organization, and their own party!



# Chicago exhibit wins support for Cuban 5 and Oscar López

BY ILONA GERSH  
AND BETSY FARLEY

CHICAGO — Fifty people attended a reception at the Calles y Sueños gallery here April 5 opening “From My Altitude: Prison Artwork,” an exhibition of 30 paintings and drawings by Antonio Guerrero, one of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the U.S. on trumped-up charges for more than 14 years.

Featured speaker and coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five Gloria La Riva described the government’s frame-up and the fight for their release. “These men will never give in to pressure, and the more people learn about this case the more will defend their fight for freedom,” she said.

“They are our brothers,” Richard Monje, vice president of Workers United, told participants. “Whether we’re fighting for health care, education, immigrant rights, we need unity and solidarity. It’s not just the fight for a contract, a union or even a strike. We have to get beyond that to international solidarity.”

“President Barack Obama says he’s for human rights in countries like Cuba and Venezuela, but he will not listen to Latinos in the United States who are denied their basic human rights,” said Eduardo Villanueva, chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of Puerto Rico.

“We have to fight for the freedom of Oscar and the Cuban Five,” he said, referring to Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, 70, who has been imprisoned in the U.S. for more than 31 years, 12 of them in solitary confinement.

Alejandro Molina, co-coordinator of the National Boricua Human Rights Network, also spoke on the group’s campaign to free López and the Five.

Prior to his 1981 arrest and frame-up conviction for “seditious conspiracy,” López was well known in the Puerto Rican community here. He helped organize the Committee to Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists, who had been jailed in 1954 for carrying out an armed pro-independence demonstration in Congress, and was active in other social struggles. Along with Guerrero’s works, the exhibit also includes three

paintings and two miniatures by López.

Several members of Workers United Local 9691, who work at an industrial laundry, attended the event. “I came to get more information on the Cuban Five that I can take back to other workers so they can learn about this fight,” shop steward Micaela Castro told the *Militant*. “Many of us have been part of protests in the fight for legalization, and the fight for freedom for the Five is a part of that fight too.”

The exhibit runs through May 4. Sponsors include the Chicago Committee to Free the Five, Chicago Cuba Coalition, National Boricua Human Rights Network, the Chicago Venezuelan Consulate, ANSWER Coalition, Centro Autónomo of Albany Park, M-19 Anti-War Coalition, All African Peoples Revolutionary Party and the Chicago Council on Black Studies.

## Tens of thousands march to legalize immigrants

**Continued from front page**

by Casa de Maryland, a social service group for immigrants, and Service Employees International Union 32BJ. Organizers say 300 buses organized by labor, church and immigrant rights groups brought participants from the East Coast, South and Midwest.

While overwhelmingly composed of workers from Mexico and Central America, contingents of Asian and African immigrants were also prominent at the rally, as were union contingents that included U.S.-born Caucasian and African-American workers from SEIU, Laborers International Union, Communications Workers of America, United Food and Commercial Workers, United Auto Workers and others.

Scores of demonstrations took place across the country in conjunction with the D.C., action. Immigrant rights actions are planned around the country for May 1, international workers day.

**Immigrant workers ‘deserve rights’**

“They deserve rights as workers,” Gabriel Terronez, president of United Auto Workers Local 434 and a worker at the John Deere plant in Moline, Ill., told the *Militant*. Terronez was part of



Above, *Militant*/Ilona Gersh

**Above: participants at opening of “From My Altitude” by Antonio Guerrero at Calles y Sueños gallery in Chicago April 5. Guerrero is one of five Cuban revolutionaries jailed on trumped-up charges in U.S. since 1998. On exhibit together with Guerrero’s paintings are works by Oscar López Rivera, Puerto Rican political prisoner jailed in U.S. since 1981. Left: “El Morro, lighthouse” painting by Guerrero.**



a UAW contingent that arrived in two buses from Chicago.

“They deported my husband to Mexico seven months ago after he was stopped in his car by the police,” said Enid Herrera from Riverdale, Md.

“We want to go to school to have a good job and we can’t because we have no papers,” said Fanta Toure, from Jersey City, N.J., who was born in the Ivory Coast.

“I came here when I was 15 years old and I’ve been undocumented for eight years now,” said Jung Rae Jang, a student at New York’s Hunter College.

The rally date was chosen to commemorate massive protests that took place April 10, 2006, in more than 70 cities in opposition to the Sensenbrenner bill, passed by the House of Representatives, which sought to brand all undocumented workers as felons. On May 1, 2006, some 2 million people across the country joined protests, giving these actions the character of a nationwide political strike. Not only did the Sensenbrenner bill go down to defeat, but the fight for immigrant rights won broader sympathy among working people.

Speakers at the Washington action included NAACP President Benjamin Jealous, who gave the keynote talk; Casa de Maryland Executive Director Gustavo Torres; SEIU President Mary Kay Henry; former farmworker leader Dolores Huerta; Rep. Luis Guterrez from Chicago; and Sen. Robert Menendez, a member of the so-called gang of eight — four Democratic and four Republican senators who are preparing the immigration bill.

There must be “a full pathway to citizenship,” Jealous told the crowd.

“It is in the nation’s interests, it is in the economic interests, it is in the security interests of the United States to have a comprehensive immigration reform,” Menendez said, where the undocumented can “earn their citizenship.”

The gang of eight’s bill would include a “road to citizenship” for those who arrived in the U.S. before 2012, prove they have a job, pay back taxes and substantial fines, learn English and pass criminal background checks. Those who

qualify would receive temporary work status, but could not apply for permanent residency for at least 10 years, or until the government certifies that border control is 90 percent effective.

President Barack Obama’s proposals are similar, except that he says that the border is already secure.

**Bill would expand ‘guest workers’**

At the same time their proposal includes tightened border enforcement and making use of the E-Verify system mandatory nationwide — an Internet database that allows bosses to check on the immigration status of employees. To ensure that bosses still have access to superexploitable workers with fewer rights, the bill includes an expanded “guest worker” program for construction, meatpacking, hotels and other so-called unskilled trades.

Gutierrez criticized high numbers of deportations and other attacks on immigrant workers under Obama, while praising the administration’s “deferred action” program that granted a stay of deportation for hundreds of thousands of young people. Like most other speakers on the platform, Gutierrez spoke favorably about “reform” proposals being prepared in Congress, but didn’t address anything specific about them.

Many at the demonstrations were critical of the proposed legislation.

“Some people say you should wait in line. There should be no restrictions and it should be done as quickly and easily as possible,” Jon Melegrito, co-chair of national Filipinos for Family Reunification in Maryland, told the *Militant*.

“I’m sure there are parts of this reform that will need to be reformed,” said Eric Lopez, whose parents immigrated to the D.C. area from Guatemala.

Waiting 10 years to qualify for permanent residency “is not the kind of reform we want,” Juan Bocanegra, spokesperson for El Comité Pro-Reforma Migratoria, told a rally of nearly 100 in downtown Seattle the same day.

*Edwin Fruit in Seattle and Deborah Liatos in N.Y. contributed to this article.*

### Who are the Cuban Five?

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups operating in southern Florida. These paramilitary outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with “conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information.”

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s 1996 shoot-down of two aircraft flown by the counterrevolutionary group Brothers to the Rescue that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana’s repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years.

All but René González remain in prison. In October 2011 he began serving a three-year “supervised release.” On the pretext of his dual citizenship, his request to return to Cuba has been denied. His wife, Olga Salanueva, is barred from entering the United States, as is Adriana Pérez, the wife of Hernández.



# ‘Cuban 5 show us how to fight, stand tall, never bow’

## Students at Columbia U host meeting on frame-up and fight to free jailed revolutionaries

On March 29 eight student groups at Columbia University in New York City hosted a meeting on the fight to free the Cuban Five. (See “Who are the Cuban Five?” on facing page.)

Some 200 people heard from a panel of speakers that included Martin Garbus, lead attorney for the Five; Rodolfo Reyes, Cuba’s ambassador to the U.N.; Julio Escalona, Venezuela’s deputy ambassador to the U.N.; and Luis Rosa, Puerto Rican independence fighter and former political prisoner. Civil rights attorney Michael Warren and N.Y. Casa de las Américas President Nancy Cabrero co-chaired the meeting. Ike Nahem gave remarks on behalf of the July 26 Coalition, which along with Casa and the Popular Educational Project to Free the Cuban Five endorsed and helped promote the event.

Last week’s issue included an article on the meeting. This week the *Militant* is printing talks by students Randolph Carr, Imani Brown, David Luna and Gerardo Romo. Carr and Brown refer in their presentations to a successful fight waged by the students to prevent the university administration from imposing strict limits on attendance from outside the campus on the pretext of “public safety.” While dozens were turned away, most of those who wanted to attend from outside the university were able to do so.



### **Randolph Carr** *Black Students Organization; Students Against Mass Incarceration*

This is an event about the confinement of people, individuals: Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, René González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino. But also the confinement of a certain type of politics. Whether or not you come to this event with prior knowledge, it is our hope today that all will learn, not only about the Five as people, but about the political, legal structure that acts against them, the family and communities they have been separated from, and the struggle that continues today. That struggle we are all a part of.

I would like to take a moment to thank each and every one for being present. Presence is sometimes the most radical act we can have. It is a necessary precondition for the fight that we carry on.

For the story of the Five is one that is, unfortunately, similar to the story of the many unseen and forgotten that sit, waiting and waiting, behind the walls

of America’s dungeons. Similar to the Five, people are swept into the system of incarceration by whatever means and forced to bow down to the weight of that machine. The Five have been swept into that system, and to this day remain unbowed. It then slowly attempts to grind down on the individual, locking them in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day. Still they remain unbowed. We can learn from the Five a lesson for our own struggle of how to stand tall and never bow.

How do we stand up? I think, is the first question we must ask ourselves. How do we rise from underneath the legacies of colonialism? How do we stand side by side with those who live under the American criminal justice system? What do we have to learn about how to live free, from those forced to live in cages because of their politics?

These questions I hope will be answered tonight along with the many other questions on our minds.

A lot has gone into making this event what it is. It’s been challenging in many ways to secure a space and promote this event. The empty seats you see are people turned around or denied access. Regardless, the event will go on.

### **Imani Brown** *Caribbean Students Association*

This is an event that we were really hoping would increase the visibility and increase the action around the gross human rights violations that have been enacted on the Cuban Five.

We have run into some difficulties along the way, as events like this that are centered around things that others deem to be controversial often are. However, that’s not going to stop us when it comes to making our voices heard about this important topic.

When first conceiving what this event would look like, it was important for us as a Caribbean student group to really ground ourselves in the historical and political context of the Cuban Five’s fight for freedom in a way that would allow us to identify the intersections of their struggles with our own. In other words, why do we as a Caribbean students association stand in solidarity with the Cuban Five?



As an integral member of the Caribbean community, Cuba’s social, cultural and economic history has had deeply lasting effects on the rest of the region and has provided an almost unparalleled model for alternative modes of development in the region.

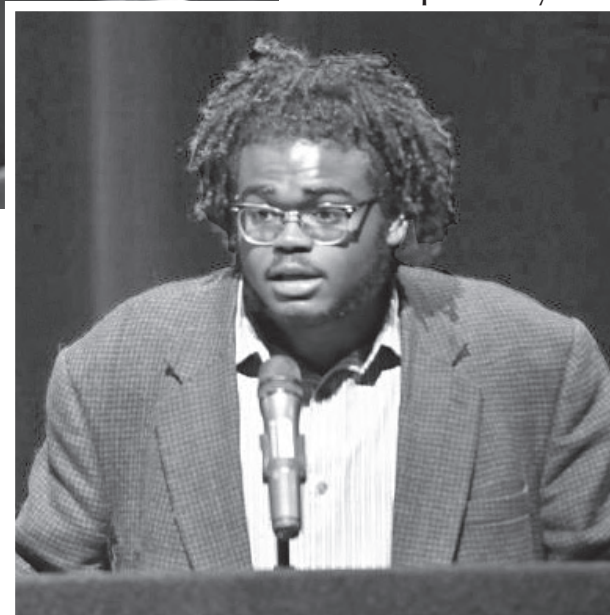
In the history of independence struggles and movements to end the reign of colonialism and neocolonialism worldwide, Cuba has not hesitated to lend its support and strategic partnership to what it has seen as its Caribbean and African family: ranging from sending freedom fighters to Angola — fighters who include three of the Cuban Five, I should note — in order to end South African apartheid, to providing scholarships to Cuban medical schools from the rest of the Caribbean. Cuba has given new meaning to ideals of solidarity, unity and support within its community.

At the same time, our support of the Cuban Five is not solely based on what Cuba has done for, or has meant for, the Caribbean. The Cuban Five had what is now widely agreed an unfair trial based on insufficient evidence and received sentences that can only be described as cruel and unusual by virtue of the length of these sentences, the refusal to allow them contact with their wives and families, and their treatment in the separate maximum-security prisons in which they remain to the present day.

Cuba’s history of resistance against American neocolonial systems of power have reserved them a place of infamy in the nation’s narrative. This is an important thing to note for a number of reasons. Not only has resistance to American neocolonial systems of power influenced the imprisonment of the Cuban Five, but it is a driving force of the prison-industrial complex, which has enacted violence on millions of brown and black bodies in the U.S. and throughout the world.

So this is not solely a Cuban problem, nor is it solely a Caribbean problem. It is indicative of a wider systemic problem. The arbitrary imprisonment of individuals as a solution to the socio-political and economic problems of a society does not sound characteristic of a nation that claims freedom and liberty as the very

In history of independence and anti-colonial struggles, “Cuba has not hesitated to lend its support and strategic partnership to what it has seen as its Caribbean and African family,” said Imani Brown (left), of the Caribbean Students Association, during March 29 meeting at Columbia University to free Cuban Five. Randolph Carr (below) of Black Students Organization and Students Against Mass Incarceration pointed out that frame-up and imprisonment of Five by U.S. government is similar to way in which others in U.S. “are swept into the system.”



Photos by Roberto Mercado

building blocks of its foundations. Yet it is, and necessarily must be, to enact the very discriminatory and hostile aggression that in the same breath it insists that it abhors.

As Caribbean students, we come to this institution with an awareness that our region’s legacy of colonialism often finds insidious ways of inserting itself into our current narrative. What was once a resistance to explicit independence by former colonizers is now the call for neoliberalism and development of the so-called Third World on the terms of the world’s hegemonic powers for their profit. What was once the unchecked plundering of lands that belonged to others is now deemed “nation-building” or the business of ensuring national security. And what was once slavery is now termed the prison-industrial complex that allows for and encourages the arbitrary detention of those it views as its opposition.

This is why we stand in solidarity with the Cuban Five. Because, as the forces of colonialism and imperialism reimagine themselves, we must reimagine

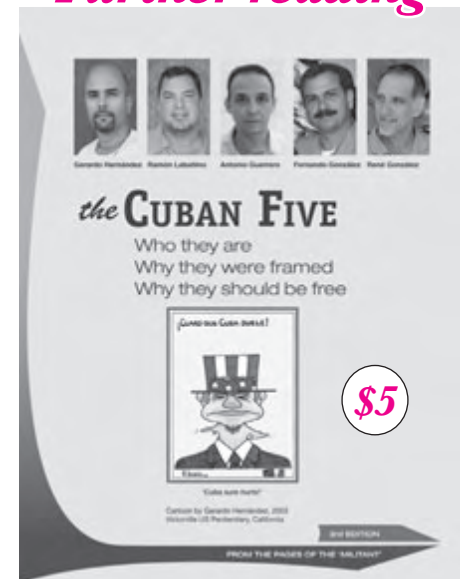
**Continued on page 9**



Roberto Mercado

Section of audience at Columbia University meeting of some 200 on fight to free Cuban Five.

### *Further reading*



*See page 3 for special offer*



# Mandela: Violence among us aids rulers' effort to weaken struggle

Below is an excerpt from Nelson Mandela Speaks, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. In February 1990, the white supremacist government of South Africa lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress, the leading organization in the anti-apartheid struggle, and released ANC leader Mandela from prison after more than 27 years. Through Mandela's own words this book traces the unfolding democratic revolution in South Africa from the early 1990s up to the scheduling in April 1994 of the first one-person, one-vote elections. Excerpted here is part of a speech Mandela gave to 700 delegates at the Seventh Congress of the National Union of Mineworkers in April 1991. Copyright © 1993 by Nelson Mandela and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NELSON MANDELA

The ANC recognizes that the mining industry is facing a crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Johannesburg, the "city of gold," bears the scars of decades of burrowing deep underground for that most precious of metals, gold. The dust that blows into the townships comes from the mine dumps that have become a geographical feature of this city. But the scars that cover the most painful wounds are those deep inside every



Reuters/Mike Hutchings

Violence among ourselves "only serves to enslave us," Nelson Mandela told mine union delegates in 1991, urging miners to help isolate lumpen elements whose activities were aiding rulers' efforts to sow divisions and weaken anti-apartheid struggle. Above, gold miners united in strike, Carltonville, South Africa, Oct. 2, 2012, after eviction from company hostel.

mine worker in this country.

You know what it is to work in the heat deep in the bowels of the earth. You know the fear of being buried alive underground. You know the humiliation of body searches and being treated like worthless cattle. You know the loneliness of hostel life, the control of your every move. You know the painful death that comes from inhaling the dust that destroys your lungs, that kills your children when they play in dumps of blue asbestos waste.

Yet it is your sweat and blood that has created the vast wealth that white South Africa enjoys. You dig for diamonds, platinum, gold—the precious metals that adorn the rich. Yet in times of crisis, such as the industry now faces, you are the first to be retrenched. In the recent past sixty thousand workers have lost their jobs. Thousands more are threatened. ...

But the crisis in the mining industry is not the only one facing us. The violence ravaging our country is of such proportions that we have presented the government with a set of demands and a deadline date of May 9, or else we will not proceed with the planned all-party congress nor hold any discussions on the future constitution for South Africa.

There is also the April 30 deadline date agreed to in terms of the Pretoria Minute affecting the release of political prisoners and return of exiles.

It goes without saying that those of us who have spent so many wasted, lonely years in apartheid's prisons, and who have been released, have a special obligation and concern for the thousands of political prisoners still behind bars. ...

I would like to spend a little time discussing with you our perspective of the violence and why we found it necessary to put demands before the government, including the dismissal of ministers Vlok and Malan.

The violence is designed to create division among the African people, especially between Zulu and Xhosa, hostel dweller and township resident. Mine workers have a very important role to play in defusing the tensions. Hostels have been identified as sources of violence, where guns are kept and weapons training takes place. This violence only serves to enslave us, turning brother against brother while white South Africa pretends to stand above the conflict. It presents the picture that South Africa can only know stability and prosperity with whites in control.

We call on all of you to organize in

the hostels. Act together with the township residents to isolate those who bring death and destruction. Isolate the vigilantes, and act against the levies for the purchase of weapons. Refuse to be part of Pretoria's plans to decimate our people and your organization, the ANC. Expose, for all the world to see, the role of the warlords and who they serve. You can help bring an end to this bloodletting, which threatens the very future of our country. ...

We have entered negotiations so that our country can know peace and freedom. The purpose of these negotiations is to ensure that we emerge with a democratic government, a new constitution, and a country which is governed by the people, for the people. We demand our rightful place in the land of our birth. We want one person, one vote in a united, nonracial, and democratic South Africa. ...

The ANC national conference is a few weeks away. Delegates from across the country, representing hundreds of thousands of people, will gather in Durban in the first week of July. We hope that there will be a strong delegation from branches of the ANC that are in the mines. We want your views, your demands, and your interests to also inform our discussions and decisions. You have a major role to play in our attempts to create a country and a future where democratic practice is the norm and the rights of working people are respected. We want a national culture of respect for each other, for our customs and traditions, for our different skin colors and religions. We want this not only in law but in the very fabric of our society.

You are the motor force of our great country. Your congress has taken important decisions for the future of the whole industry, and therefore for the whole country. I want to appeal to those who control the mining industry to listen to your decisions and be prepared to engage with you in the process of restructuring the industry for the sake of the future of all our people. The challenges facing us are enormous, but acting in unity we can succeed and achieve our goals.

Long live the National Union of Mineworkers!

April

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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# Defend workers rights!

*The following statement was released April 17 by Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.*

The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people and other defenders of democratic rights to reject the U.S. capitalist rulers’ use of the bombing in Boston to bolster their efforts to chip away at constitutional protections and the political space working people need to organize and act to defend our interests.

The source of increasing world disorder is the crisis of capitalism — something the propertied rulers have no solution for other than going after working people, on the job and in every aspect of our daily lives.

The *Wall Street Journal* and others have called for expanding “pre-emptive surveillance” — code words for more political spying, more informants and provocateurs in any group the government does not like, more spy cameras on city streets, more invasions of the right to privacy, more use of prisons like Guantánamo and more frame-ups.

For many workers it is not immediately apparent how curbs on rights in the name of “anti-terrorism” are directed ultimately at the working class. How the government’s decades-long assault on workers rights is essential to bosses’ assaults on our living standards, unions and working conditions.

But more and more workers are learning through

initial experiences of resistance that the bosses are backed by the cops, courts and government at every level. This makes it easier today than it was after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to connect the war against working people at home to the wars against “terrorism” abroad, to connect curbs on our rights under any pretext to the working-class skirmishes today and battles to come.

From the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, signed into law by William Clinton, to the Patriot Act, signed in 2001 by George W. Bush and extended by Barack Obama, their aim is to limit our ability to fight back.

The contemptible marathon bombings and the deaths and maiming they caused — whoever carried them out and whatever their motivations — will provide one more pretext to deepen this course, from New York and Boston to London and Madrid.

Political space to meet, discuss, debate, demonstrate and strike without government interference is crucial for working people. This is the case from Egypt and Tunisia to the docks of Hong Kong; from battles by New York City school bus workers and for miners from Illinois to Alabama; to protests across the country for the rights of immigrant workers.

This space is essential for building an independent, class struggle road against the bosses and their political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and for fighting for a workers and farmers government.

## Workers jobs, wages targeted in Cyprus crisis

**Continued from front page**

are simply loans to banks that may not be honored if they run into financial trouble. As a result more will be stashing whatever they can in the mattress.

The bank restructuring along with a package of government austerity measures that above all target workers are part of conditions imposed by Berlin and the so-called troika — the European Central Bank, European Commission and International Monetary Fund — for \$13 billion in loans to the government of Cyprus. Workers’ pensions are among the funds deposited in Cypriot banks affected by the deal.

“Bank workers’ pension funds were held in the respective banks where they worked,” Loizos Hajicostis, president of the Union of Bank Employees of Cyprus (ETVK), said in a phone interview from Nicosia.

On March 30 and April 4, more than 8,000 workers joined protests against threatened layoffs and attacks on workers’ pension funds, Hajicostis said.

Some 300 Cyprus Airways workers demonstrated outside the Presidential Palace April 10 against measures that eliminate about 50 percent of the national airline’s 1,000 jobs and cut wages by 17 percent. The workers are also demanding protection of their pension funds.

Cyprus has been in recession for the past year with

a nearly 15 percent official unemployment rate, a figure expected to rise much higher as austerity measures under the troika’s loan deal are implemented.

To maintain payments to the bondholders, the government has agreed to sell \$520 million of the country’s gold reserves, driving already falling gold prices to a 15-month low.

In May 2011, Portugal became the third in the eurozone common currency bloc to receive “bailout” funds from the troika to avert a government debt default. Lisbon received \$102 billion, conditioned on reducing the government’s budget deficit through spending cuts and raising taxes.

In early March this year hundreds of thousands of workers marched in Lisbon and other cities against the austerity plan.

On April 5 Portugal’s Constitutional Court struck down plans to reduce holiday bonuses for public workers and pensioners and cut sick leave and unemployment benefits.

Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho two days later vowed to replace these measures with further cuts to education, health care and social security programs.

*Georges Mehrabian in Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.*

## ‘Cuban 5 show us how to fight, stand tall’

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ine the forms of resistance that we enact in order to ensure our own liberty and freedom.

One thing that does not change, however, is that we are stronger when we are united than when we work apart.

For these reasons and more, we support the call for freedom of the Cuban Five and for reevaluation of the wider societal systems in place that affect us and our communities and the living of our day-to-day lives.

### David Luna, Gerardo Romo *Chicano Caucus*

The Chicano Caucus of Columbia University stands in solidarity with the Cuban Five and stands against any manifestation of the United States corrupt justice system. A system that disproportionately targets Black and Latino youth in New York City. A system that violates basic human rights by using emotional, physical and sexual violence to break and permanently silence those whose politics are too threatening. A system that

harasses and disproportionately arrests Latina trans women and leaves them extremely vulnerable to physical and sexual violence once incarcerated. A system that capitalizes on immigrant labor by day and detains undocumented persons under the harshest conditions by night.

The detention and deportation of immigrants is a multibillion dollar industry that separates families and violates basic human rights. In 2010, half a million people were detained in more than 300 [immigration] detention centers around the country and the number is increasing every day. The Chicano Caucus says no to a system that labels some politics, cultures, skin colors — entire human lives and their survival — as illegal.

Winning freedom for the Cuban Five would not only strike a blow to the severe human rights violations done to those men. It would also deal a blow to a system that profits off the violence and dehumanization suffered by immigrants and people of color every day in this country.”

## Bombing in Boston

**Continued from front page**

Obama said at a press conference April 16.

According to the April 16 *New York Post*, the explosives were placed in pressure cookers with “shards of metal, nails and ball bearings.”

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the bomb attack and no arrest has been made. Many theories on a motive have been floated in the media, from the fact that it took place on Patriots’ Day to its proximity to the anniversaries of both the deadly 1993 U.S. government assault on the Branch Davidian complex in Waco, Texas, and the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.

The press widely reported that FBI and local agents questioned an unnamed 20-year-old Saudi citizen at Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital April 15, where he was under heavy guard while being treated for shrapnel injuries sustained during the blast.

Federal and state officers raided and searched his apartment in nearby Revere, Mass., carrying away bags of his belongings. The next day the cops said he was not a suspect, “but a victim” of the bombing.

The bombing also provided an opportunity for Boston and federal authorities to practice their plan of action for responding to crises — part of broader moves in cities around the country toward increasingly militarized operations to take on anticipated future “civil disorders.”

“Not since the Sept. 11 attacks has Boston witnessed such a show of martial power,” the *Boston Globe* wrote April 16. The paper reported that Boston police officers and “scores of rifle-wielding” SWAT teams, National Guardsmen and state troopers were patrolling subway stations, walking the platforms, standing at turnstiles and searching bags.

The Massachusetts Capitol was surrounded by state police, with cars parked on the sidewalks at all entrances, including two armored Humvees filled with SWAT teams. The Government Center area, which includes Boston City Hall and several federal and state office buildings, was hemmed in by metal barricades and cops armed with assault weapons.

Government authorities mobilized highly visible patrol units and searches at transit stops and government buildings in other cities across the country and around the world.

“Some of the security measures we are taking may be noticeable,” New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the media. “Others will not be. We have 1,000 members of the NYPD assigned to counter-terrorism duties, and they — along with the entire NYPD and the investments we have made in counter-terrorism infrastructure — are being fully mobilized to protect our city.”

The *Wall Street Journal* called for stepping up “pre-emptive surveillance” and the use of spies and “informants in communities that might produce killers.”

Republican Rep. Peter King of New York was one of a growing number of political figures calling for expanding the use of spy cameras on the streets of major cities. “Being out on the street is not an expectation of privacy,” he argued.

Following the bombing in Boston, British officials announced they were tightening measures for the April 17 funeral of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London and the April 21 London Marathon.

The Associated Press reported April 15 that workers were “inspecting some of the country’s 4.3 million CCTV cameras in high-traffic areas around London.”

It added that “police and counterterrorism officials are also aggressively monitoring potential suspects.”

*Kevin Dwire from Boston contributed to this article.*

### Correction

In issue no. 15, the On the Picket Line item titled “Machinists at United Airlines Reject Concession Contract” incorrectly said workers voted to reject the company’s contract proposal March 30. The vote was conducted by mail ballot with the result announced on that date.